



ARENA REPORT



P.O. Box 952547, Lake Mary, FL 32795-2547

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Volume IV, Number 20

July 20, 1992

Welcome back. I had a great time up in New England. The weather was great. I'm all golfed out as I played just about every day. I also started suffering from wrestling withdrawal. All I watched was 20 minutes of WCW Pro where I felt like a mark as I learned of the title changes in the Omni from Tony Schiavone. Unfortunately I didn't get a chance to see the UCW show I had planned on as Mssrs. McAdam & Boynes changed their schedule to every three weeks which meant I lost. This issue marks the debut of "Shootkick" which is the title of Jeff Bowdren's new column here at "AR". Jeff will now be a monthly columnist joining the issues with Klon, Marianne, & Scott. Evan Ginzburg and Mike Terry (along with Mr. Hudson who writes in every ish) will be joined from time to time by K.C. O'Connor who is now a main writer for Wade Keller's new venture The Ring Post, and Jeff Siegel who has a column next ish looking at Titan's foray into England and parralleling it to the McDonalds Corporation.

I was all set to bid adieu to Jeff Mullin's Pro Wrestling Sushi newsletter which has folded up shop, when I got Klon's column and saw what he said about Jeff and Sushi. I don't know what I can add since Klon hit the nail right on the head, but to say besides being a fellow newsletter writer, Jeff is also a dear friend. He is one of the reasons that the Baltimore PPV get together in '90 is still my all time fave gathering. We'll miss ya big man. Let's see that name pop up in the sheets eh?

Arena Report is published bi-weekly at the cost of \$1.00 per issue. A label on your envelope indicates how many you have remaining. All renewals, letters, and match results may be sent to Arena Report, P.O. Box 952547, Lake Mary, FL 32795-2547. To all old readers, thanks for your continued support and to new subs, I hope you enjoy your first look at "AR".

#LIVE REPORT#

INTERNATIONAL WRESTLING FEDERATION

Friday, July 17, 1992
Chain O'Lakes Civic Center
Winter Haven, FL

Tag Team Match

Brute Force beat Dynamite Express in 18:24. Force are the same guys that worked indies in Georgia and Global. Thought they'd be a lot better. Dynamites carried them. Heels missed lots of spots and I actually started worrying about the health of the Dynamites in there as one spot Force were supposed to hotshot Randy Fuller on the top rope but they missed and he almost snapped his neck on the middle one. Express are now managed by some guy named the Candieman who worked some indies in the northeast. He reminds me of the Genius. Just shows that if your a mark and you have money you can get into the biz. Finish saw one of Brute Force hit Randy Rhodes with a gimmick and Randy bled and was pinned. Funny thing was, it took Force about 30 seconds before he could find his object in his trunks. He kept fishing and fishing. ** all for Dynamites and I do mean all for Express. I miss the Bad Boys.

2nd Match

Rob Van Damme pinned Mr. Terrific (Tim Parker) with a great flying bodypress in 13:41. Van Damme had never impressed me until this bout. He was unreal. He did some moves that I have never seen and couldn't even describe them. And of course, Parker was his usual solid self. ***

Grudge Match

Al Hardiman beat The Possessor (Ned Brady) in 8:08. Al came out with an outfit similar to Bret Hart's. He wished he had 1/8 of the talent. Black Jack Mulligan came out halfway through the bout to send Nasty Ronnie back to the dressing room. Finish saw Al push Ned into the ropes for a rollup and Mulligan clocked Possessor with a chair in the head and Hardiman pinned him. Ned now has a short neat haircut which takes away from his crazy look. 3/4* for the finish.

Last
1990

Dave, enjoyed your last issue.
Ken

IWF Tag Team Championship

The Long Riders and Thunder & Lightning went to a double count out at 12:28. T & L had turned heel at the tapings on 7/4 but since it hasn't aired yet they came out as faces. Lots of good spots until it got out of control and they had a pull apart at the end. **3/4

IWF World Heavyweight Championship

Blackjack Mulligan retained the title beating Mongolian Stomper in 7:48. Can't figure out why every time Mulligan faces Stomper or Possessor that Ronnie joins in in a triple team outside the ring right in front of the ref and there is no DQ. Can we at least make it look legit. BJ bladed in the first minute. After a ref bump, Nasty Ned got on the top rope and went to come down on Mulligan with his cahin but BJ moved and Stomper got nailed and pinned. *

Battle Royal

Al Hardiman won the first ever IWF battle royal and received the trophy in 7:02. Last three in were Al, Possessor and Jammer from Brute Force. Kip Winchester pulled the two heels out from outside the ring (seen that finish somewhere before) and Al won it. Highlight of the royal was a stiff chopfest going on between Randy Rhodes and Lightning. **

***** RAMBLINGS *****

The Miami Herald reported on 7/15 that the WWF is being investigated by the federal government on allegations of sexual abuse and transporting minors across state lines. Titan denies that they are being investigated. Does that surprise you?.....Titan held an all encompassing drug test on 7/8 in Rockford, IL. Two guys that I know were called on the carpet were Brian Knobbs and Kevin Kelly (Nailz). That's interesting as Knobbs was telling the boys that if you took an amino acid you could mask any type of drug. I guess it didn't work...Heard the two were fined..... Some people are talking that Bob Backlund will be pushed to the moon, even possibly getting the Inter-Continental title somewhere in the future. Too tough for me to believe.....The WBF (Vince's bodybuilding federation) will cease publishing of their magazine after the September issue. They've even offered to help out other bodybuilding groups. Looks like the end is near for them.....Ricky Steamboat suffered some bruised ribs in the Bash bout with Gordy and Williams which is what Jim Ross said on the Saturday night show.....Hulk Hogan signing with New Japan could make for a very interesting year. In all honesty, Hogan working a WCW date would really hinge on how his relationship is with McMahon.....Halloween Havoc on 10/25 will be held in Baltimore. The event was held the last few years in Chicago..... Bill Watts mentioned how he got calls from Ric Flair, Sid Vicious, and Terry Funk wanting to challenge Van Vader. Not a smart move if he's not planning on bringing any of them in as it'll make Vader look like he's scared to wrestle them. Why am I nervous that they'll bring in Sid?.....ICWA in Tampa on 7/16 saw Frankie Lancaster and Cuban Assassin (David Sierra) go to a draw, Bongo the Cave Man (Tim Parker) over El Bandito, Kendall Windham pinned Night Rider (Denny Brown under a hood), and Dean Malenko beat Mark Starr. Windham then attacked Malenko and the heels double teamed until Jimmy Backlund made the save with a neck brace (from the previous week). Backlund got destroyed the week before by Kevin Sullivan in what was described to me as a real brutal beating.....Randy Savage beat Ric Flair on reverse decision on a card at the Tampa Sundome on 7/17 in front of 4,500.....This Saturday on Larry Sharpe's WWA show in Tampa he'll show a 1988 interview with Buddy Rogers in a special hour tribute to the "Nature Boy".....Speaking of TV, for those in the Tampa Bay area I'll be co-hosting Pro Wrestling Weekly on the cable access channel at 5:00 Saturday.....Gordon Solie has started shooting WCW magazine spots for the Florida house shows instead of Eric Bischoff.....Meetings were held this past weekend concerning the future of the ICWA. They're trying to iron out some financial problems.....Chris Cruise did play by play on the last NWF tapings (Buck Robley's group out of Louisiana) but Terry Funk didn't do color.....I'm hedging my bet that Barry Windham will be the new member of the Dangerous Alliance. Some fans expected his turn at the Bash PPV but no go.....Randy Savage was a guest last Thursday on the "Ron & Ron" radio show. I hope Vince wasn't listening as Savage was cracking jokes about Icopro and steroids etc.....Leia Mavia was in Tampa the last few weeks scouting talent as she's looking to start up Hawaii again.....Penelope Paradise out for a while with a kidney infection. Wendy Richter may be taking her place against Debbie Malenko on the Suncoast Pro show in Manatee on 7/31.....Jimmy Backlund has replaced Pat Tanaka as booker for ICWA.....Many readers have wondered why we didn't see more of the brackets for the NWA tag tourney. It's probably because they didn't want fans to notice they switched the brackets around to make that Steiners-Gordy & Williams match happen.....This quote from Lord Al Hays on Prime Time concerning the Roadies dummy Rocco, "A wooden stare from Rocco." The sad thing is, neither he nor Monsoon realized there was a pun

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"Look, \$50 an article. That's my final offer. I'm just a newsletter editor for God's sake!"-Ron Lemieux, July 1992

Yes, wrestling fans, being the man of high moral fiber that I am, I have succumbed to the lure of easy money from old Big Bucks Lemieux in order to return to the world of monthly wrestling columns in the newsletter world-NOT!

I gotta tell ya, I'm getting a big kick out of Smokey Mountain. The t.v. show moves fast & furious, with lots of entertaining bits. I'll touch on the good and the bad.

THE GOOD: The heel side is very solid. Almost everyone gives strong interviews. Paul Orndorff is doing his best stuff in years, and Tony Anthony does great psychotic interviews, complimented by wheelchair bound Ron Wright, usually feigning a heart attack. It's in poor taste, but its pretty funny. A few weeks back, Anthony announced that he'd be taking donations to help Wright get an iron lung. My main man Buddy Landel has been hilarious as always on interviews for his feud with Tim Horner ("Brother, you'd rather go thru Hell with gasoline britches than fight me. Your so worried about me that I know there ain't nothing happening with you & your wife at night!") But the ultimate Budro quote was during a local interview spot when he was talking about lead face Brian Lee ("Those promotions you used to work for were nothing. You have to be tough to wrestle in Smokey Mountain. In those other groups, you wrestle the promoters son and are whupping up on him and he yells, 'Daddy says your supposed to sell'!" Bob Caudle & Dutch Mantell are a great announcing team. Dutch does hilarious snide remarks about "hick" fans while Caudle has perfected the Gordon Solie-esque look of disgust during heel spots. Bob Armstrong is good in the Eddie Marlin role as the frazzled commissioner. Stan Lane & Tom Pritchard are a solid lead heel team, though their work isn't exactly the Midnight Express of 1988 (hey, who is?) Tom still occasionally falls into his Roddy Piper imitation during interviews, but Stan has been an absolute revelation on the microphone. His arrogant heel spots may be even better than Rude's or ...GASP!...Flair! Among other things, he's complained that he & Pritchard have been the victims of sexual harassment and attempted date rapes. He also claimed that the reason Bobby & Jackie Fulton are after he & Pritchard is because the Fulton's girlfriends keep calling them. Stan then said the girls were ugly and suggested that the girls try a 900 number if they weren't being satisfied! They also do a hilarious intro before every match. The ring announcer, with a total deadpan expression, says "I have an announcement from the Heavenly Bodies (Stan & Tom). Due to the numerous attempts by women to touch & grope them, the Heavenly Bodies want to advise that any such attempts will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. Gentlemen in the audience, please, keep your women under control!" Finally, there's Jimmy. I'm telling you, all hail King James Cornette. I know that Bobby Heenan, Sherri Martel and certainly Paul E. all have their fans, with good reason. But I'm hear to tell you Jim Cornette is just on a different level. It's like comparing Charles Barkley to Michael Jordan. Both are great, but they really can't be compared. Jim has just been on fire here. What I really like is that he's more like the jerk he was in Mid-South than the comedian he was in WCW. People seem to genuinely hate him. Among the gems: "I'm looking out at the crowd and I'm thinking to myself that there has to be a nuclear plant around here somewhere. Nature just couldn't make people that ugly." And my personal favorite-"You know, the Fantastics claim to be from 'The City of Angels'. Well that's baloney because they happen to be from Chillicothe, Ohio. Their family is very famous there. The dad is the town drunk and every man in town knows that if he has \$20 and a half hour to kill where Mrs. Fulton lives."

THE BAD: The babyface side is as weak as the heel side is strong. When your three most charismatic babies are Bobby Fulton, Dixie Dyn-o-mite & Tim Horner, you've got problems. The lead babyface is Brian Lee, who just doesn't have it. What's hilarious is when Bob Armstrong talks about how Smokey Mountain uses wrestlers, "who can wrestle, not just because their built like Man Mountain Dean", and then they push Lee like crazy. Now their bringing in the ultra-charismatic Ronnie Garvin. UGH!

Still though, for those who get the tapes, or those who are considering it, Smokey Mountain is loads of fun! They feature some good brawls, including one a few weeks back that featured the Heavenly Bodies and the Fultons fighting in a hallway and out into a parking lot, with Bobby Fulton using a pipe to smash a car window. Its one of the best of its kind that I've ever seen and a must for tape collectors.

Hey, its looks like this paper is running out of space so I'm getting the hell outta here. Let's try not to let life give a shootkick to the head.....

COWBOY BILL WATTS - SAVIOR OR PIPE DREAM ?

The hiring of the legendary Cowboy Bill Watts to run the much-troubled World Championship Wrestling fulfilled one of the last remaining dreams of die-hard wrestling fans. His reputation has grown since his departure from the world of pro wrestling, perhaps deserved, perhaps not. Let us spend a few moments reflecting on Cowboy Bill Watts.

To attempt to speculate on the potential success or failure of Mr Watts based on his actions thus far is ludicrous. We will have our first definitive chance to critique his efforts after the Oct and Dec pay-per-view events. To judge him today would be the equivalent of writing a movie review after watching the trailer (of coming attractions) of a film six months before the film is released.

The wrestling newsletter Torch has conducted interviews with Watts both prior to and since accepting the WCW position. But one must take these interviews with a grain of salt. There are several ways the outcome of such interviews can be manipulated (by either party). The subject could use the only wrestling technique called kay fabe. Major celebrity interviewees set ground rules in order to set the tone of the interview and stay away from sore subjects. A person could say something tongue-in-cheek and it could be lost to the reader.

To many, Watts came across as a racist during the interviews. No one has ever promoted a black wrestler the way Bill Watts pushed The Junkyard Dog. There have been main event black wrestlers before (Bobo Brazil was the biggest star). But none had ever been used as a lead babyface and role model. Dave Meltzer was quoted in Sports Illustrated lavishing praise on the interviews of the JYD. While under Watts tutelage the Dog was used unlike any black wrestler before or successfully since. Watts was also the first to use a black woman (Dark Journey) in such a prominent way. Only Watts and his God know if he truly is a racist and only used black stars for his own gain. It is very apparent that Watts is considering Ron Simmons as his lead babyface, hoping to duplicate his JYD success. Curtis Hughes appears to have a push coming thanks to the hiring of Watts. If I was ~~Derrick~~ Dukes I would be camped out at Watts office door, tapes in hand looking for that elusive big break. Ditto with Ben Peacock (the black equal to Bam Bam Bigelow) who has been forced to use that damned jungle Kimala (II) bit and Botswana Beast act to make a living.

The use of the clean finish has come on the scene at WCW wrestling since the hiring of Watts. Who would have believed the Sting, the Steiner Bros, and even Dustin Rhodes would be doing clean jobs. This has to be seen as a positive sign. I have to question the no-show policy of Watts though. Fines are to be levied if a wrestler pulls a no-show. But Watts can pull a wrestler off a show if it suits his purpose. I speak of the Puerto Rican team whom Watts told not to come to the Clash show. Great way to appeal to any Hispanic fans !

I for one am looking forward with relish to Halloween Havoc and Starcade just to see what "the legend" comes up with. Don't second guess Watts until then

X L M N

Personal note - The demise of the Sushi newsletter creates a void both our heads and in our hearts. Jeff Mullins could make you laugh your ass off or really make you think. And who else had the balls to make fun of Dave Meltzer, recently dead wrestlers, etc. No one was immune to the scathing wit of the Mull-Man (myself included). End of the line for Sushi, joining Matwatch and Rasslin Riot in gone but not forgotten newsletters. So long Jubie, Jimmy, Joe Jersey Joe, Riki-Jack, and all most of all Jeff. Ya had a great run and brought much laughter and taught us a lesson in courage. THANKS !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

READER PROFILES

NAME: TOM LAMPARTER

OCCUPATION: Insurance Claims Manager

BORN: 9/20/57 Rahway, NJ

WHAT 3 WORDS DESCRIBE YOU BEST: honest, ambitious, loyal

DREAM VACATION: Extended USA drive with my wife.

THINGS YOU CAN DO WITHOUT: intolerance, ignorance

WHOM IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE DINNER WITH: Pat Buchanan

MOVIE YOU COULD SEE ANYTIME: The Producers

3 THINGS THAT CAN ALWAYS BE FOUND IN YOUR REFRIGERATOR: beer, cold cuts, milk

WHO WOULD PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE: Myself

WHAT TV SHOW DO YOU NEVER MISS: Murphy Brown

FAVORITE WRESTLING MOMENT: Buzz Sawyer vs. Tommy Rich in the Dog Collar match.

NAME: PAUL SPIEGEL

OCCUPATION: Humismatist

BORN: 1/17/49 Brooklyn, NY

WHAT 3 WORDS DESCRIBE YOU BEST: lovable, caring, strong

DREAM VACATION: Going back to Club Med in Martinique and Hawaii

THINGS YOU CAN DO WITHOUT: traffic, disco, rap music

WHOM IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE DINNER WITH: Woman or Klon

MOVIE YOU COULD SEE ANYTIME: E.T.

3 THINGS THAT CAN ALWAYS BE FOUND IN YOUR REFRIGERATOR: lemon lime seltzer,
skim milk, gator tails

WHO WOULD PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE: John Candy

WHAT TV SHOW DO YOU NEVER MISS: Pro Wrestling Weekly

FAVORITE WRESTLING MOMENT: Believe it or not, being live at MSG when Hogan
beat Sheik for title. 2) When Johnny Ace bled
on my sneakers.

NAME: LARRY ENGLEBRY

OCCUPATION: Hospital/Security dept.

BORN: 4/28/58 Lorain, OH

WHAT 3 WORDS DESCRIBE YOU BEST: intense, sensitive, spontaneous

DREAM VACATION: Bahamas

THINGS YOU CAN DO WITHOUT: condoms, Dusty Rhodes

WHOM IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE DINNER WITH: Marilyn Chambers

MOVIE YOU COULD SEE ANYTIME: Desperate Living

3 THINGS THAT CAN ALWAYS BE FOUND IN YOUR REFRIGERATOR:

WHO WOULD PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE: Stevan Segal, Johnny Thunders

WHAT TV SHOW DO YOU NEVER MISS: WCW on TBS

FAVORITE WRESTLING MOMENT: Meeting, talking, and having my picture taken
for two hours with Jerry Lawler in '90 the day before his bout with Eddie
Gilbert in Lorain, OH

SCOTT HUDSON'S.....

GEORGIA WRESTLING JOURNAL

CENTER STAGE (Atlanta, Georgia) 07-06-92 "WCW PRO" TV TAPINGS FOR AIR ON THE WEEKENDS OF 07-25-92 TO 08-08-92. (07-25): Rick Rude over Michael Hayes..Jushin Liger over Chris Sullivan..The Barbarian over T.C. Carter..Tom Zenk & Brian Pillman over Greg Valentine & Dick Slater..Dallas Page & Vinnie Vegas over Junkyard Dog & Mark Bagwell..(08-01): Jushin Liger over Brad Armstrong..Mark Bagwell over Mark Canterbury..Terry Gordy & Steve Williams over Tommy Angel & Terry Bronson..Greg Valentine, Dick Slater, & The Barbarian over Tom Zenk, Dustin Rhodes, & Brian Pillman..Junkyard Dog over Vinnie Vegas..(08-08): Jushin Liger over Jimmy Garvin..Johnny B. Badd over Mike Thor..Terry Gordy & Steve Williams over Mark Bagwell & Big Josh..Dan Spivey over Steve Pritchard..Barry Windham over Terry Taylor..NEWS & NOTES: The babyface turn of Curtis "Mr." Hughes culminated here. He and JYD had a stare-down following JYD's tag team loss on the 07-25 show. This was followed by Hughes making the save for JYD during a double team by Page & Vegas on the 08-01 show. JYD & Hughes shook hands and embraced, making the turn complete (including the turn in my stomach)..Doc and Gordy had the WCW Tag straps but not NWA straps..Armstrong still had the Light Heavyweight strap..The Freebirds are deader than three o'clock..Liger looks great..ATT: 750

CENTER STAGE (Atlanta, Georgia) 07-14-92 "WCW SATURDAY NIGHT" TV TAPINGS FOR AIR ON THE WEEKEND OF 07-25-92: The Barboreian over Randy Starr..Johnny B. Badd, Barry Windham, & Dustin Rhodes over Cactus Jack, Steve Austin, & Greg Valentine..Big Van Vader over Larry Santo & Rob Dildo..Nikita Koloff over Arn Anderson..NEWS & NOTES: During the live open, Jim Ross is interviewing Rick Rude. Rude called out for Madusa and ordered her to "get the jacuzzi ready and fix me a drink". Madusa shrugs and leaves the set. (Who can't smell a Madusa turn coming down Main Street? As long as they bring in Terry Power or Dump Matsumoto as the heel, I'm for it.)..ATT: 750

NORTH GEORGIA WRESTLING CENTER (Alpharetta, Georgia) 07-12-92 "PRO WRESTLING THIS WEEK" TV TAPINGS FOR AIR ON THE WEEKENDS OF 07-25-92 TO 08-08-92. (07-25): Lee Thomas over Moose Mahoney..The Convicts #2 over Ray Lloyd & Chris Blade..Tim Strong over Chief Iron Eagle..Steve Lawler & Hillbilly Festus over Terry Leyland & Scott Studd..(08-01): T.A. Golden over Mr. Olympia ..Terry Leyland over Danny Garvin..The Punisher over Bob Ellis..Steve Lawler & Hillbilly Festus over The Convicts #2..(08-08): Randy Rose over Kahn the Warrior ..The Highwayman over The Black Panther..The Jailhouse Rocker and Kid Vicious fought to a No Contest..The Punisher over Mike Curevich..NEWS & NOTES: All titles changed hands. Steve Lawler & Hillbilly Festus won a three-week tournament to become the inaugural Southeastern Tag Team Champions. They defeated The Convicts #2 on the 08-01 show..Kongo the Moroccan won the TV Title from Hillbilly Festus on the show that has already aired on 07-18 but was taped at the show..The Punisher (Ray Lloyd) defeated Mike Curevich on the 08-08 show to become the new Georgia Heavyweight Champion..In a remarkable 6:00, The Jailhouse Rocker & Kid Vicious (great name, huh?) fought to a No Contest. The real story here is incredible. Rocker has been nursing a badly bruised left shoulder for 2 months. In all honesty, he should not have been in the ring. Rocker is, however, a tough and ethical wrestler (boy, talk about a contradiction in terms!) and wrestled anyway. Well, during the match, Vicious, a new jobber from North Carolina, decided that this would be the perfect opportunity to prove to the promotion how tough he is. He began shooting (as in shooting) on Rocker's injured shoulder. Rocker tried but was in so much pain he could not not fight back. Believe me, this does not compare to Steiner-Izuka for brutality. Out of no where, Steve Lawler appeared and beat the hell out of Vicious. Literally. Vicious was injured legit. The fans did not know what was happening nor did Steve Prazak or I. The truth? Lawler and Rocker are brothers. This has never been acknowledged on any television or house show. The tape of the match was burned and no longer exists, but, for one night, blood was thicker than booking. My hat is off to Steve Lawler for coming to the aid of his brother and shucking the kayfabe rules of wrestling..See you in two.....

THE LAST WORD...

THIS ISSUE MARKS THE 2ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE GEORGIA WRESTLING JOURNAL. THANKS TO STEVE PRAZAK, LOU LADINSKY, JON HORTON, ROB BRITT, GREG YARMAN, AND GARY LYNCH (THE ATLANTA BOYS) FOR MAKING THIS COLUMN FUN AND EASY TO DO; AND THANKS TO ALL "A.R." READERS FOR THE SUPPORT & FEEDBACK.

NOTES FROM THE PARKING LOT

by,
Marianne Ryan

Ok, time to use our imaginations. Let's pretend, just for a few minutes, that I am Vince McMahon. That having been established, we can call what follows-Mistakes I Have Made:

I broke up the Powers of Pain. In fact, I did more than that. I took a powerful tag team, and reduced it to two pathetic gimmicks that were so lame, neither wrestler is still in my employ.

I put Hulk Hogan first and foremost for far too long, and at great expense to the immediate future of my business.

I took perhaps the greatest tag team of all time in the Road Warriors and reduced them and their manager Paul Ellering into a bad Vaudeville act.

I took the great Ric Flair and made him so inconsequential, you almost forget he works for me.

I catered to the whims of a man I once fired. Yes, I took the Ultimate Warrior back, I gave him a limo, and I'm giving him back the belt. Little does it matter that he generates as much excitement as reruns of Murder She Wrote.

So I've made mistakes. Hey, it's my business and if I want to run it in to the ground, it's my prerogative. Let Ted Turner spend his money to make wrestling better. I've still got all those kiddies buying my merchandise so I'm not worried at all. We now return you to your regular column.

Yes, these are some of the things I think McMahon's screwed up. I remember the first time I saw the Powers of Pain. It was South Bend, Indiana and Tito Santana brought them out to assist him with Demolition after he was dumped by his Strike Force partner Rick Martel. Whew. They were bigger than big, stronger than strong, and in time, meaner than mean. They tore through their opponents with the greatest of ease. When the LOD joined the WWF, the logical thing would have been to get these two teams feuding as their NWA matches were legendary. Instead, McMahon broke up the PoP, and these days, the LOD provokes more laughter than fear in their opponents.

By the time Hogan departed it was anti-climatic, especially since Ric Flair was around. But he has been buried in a silly storyline, losing to Savage. And giving the belt to the Warrior isn't going to help. He may be smaller, but he still can't wrestle.

Maybe the Europeans really love this kind of stuff, but I know I wouldn't be going to any matches if I had to pay for my tickets. I can't believe with the talent in the WWF, things are as dull as they are. If ever there was a time for WCW to make a major move to become THE wrestling promotion in the US, that time is now. It's up to Bill Watts and crew to do it. Let's hope they make the most of it. Until next month...

 #CORRESPONDENT'S CORNER#

Century Toyota (INDY) Wallingford, CT June 27, 1992
 Correspondent: Dan Reilly

1) Tazmaniac beat Scott Taylor. 2) Warlord squashed Steve Ramsey. 3) Ray Odyssey & Paul Zion over Chris Candito & Flex Lavender. 4) Kevin Sullivan pinned Tommy Dreamer. 5) Jimmy Snuka beat Metal Maniac. 6) Honkey Tonk Man went to a double DQ with Vic Steamboat. 7) Don Muraco went to a no contest with Tony Atlas. Classless line of the night goes to Muraco who told Atlas, "You look like the guys who pulled that trucker out of his cab in L.A." ATT: between 100 and 200 as people could come and go as they please.

East Park Recreation Center (NWF) Houma, LA June 28, 1992
 Correspondent: Ken Verret

1) Joey Maggs pinned Handsome Johnny Rose in 8:12. 2) Butch Reed used a DDT to defeat Ron Powers in 7:45. 3) Robert Gibson bulldogged David Condrey in 13:20. 4) Junkyard Dog, Paul Orndorff, & Butch Reed beat Bob Orton, Manny Fernandez, & Ron Powers in 18:34 when JYD inside cradled Powers. ATT: 175

J & J Center (INDY) Athens, GA July 2, 1992
 Correspondents: Lenis Sargent, Harold Harris, Tony Duncan

1) Ted Allen & Lee Thomas beat Ken Timbs & Tim Strong in a 20 minute plus opener. Lots of missed moves but they tried. 2) Bambi beat Peggy Lee Leather even though Leather used an international object concealed in her top. 3) Ken Timbs rolled up Scott Stud with the help of tights. Stud is a ringer for Tom Zenk. 4) Ron Garvin beat Dutch Mantell for the southern title with a reverse sunset flip. Mantell came to the ring with Ron Fuller's old USA group title. 5) Tim Strong won a battle royal that included everyone on the card including the girls. Highlight was Bambi giving a Flair like chop to Strong that echoed throughout the building. ATT: 300

Baltimore Arena (WCW) Baltimore, MD July 4, 1992
 Correspondent: Bruce Ginevan

1) Larry Zbyszko small packaged Bobby Eaton. 2) Dustin Rhodes bulldogged and then rolled up Greg Valentine. After the bout, Valentine clamped on the figure four until the officials broke it up. 3) Scotty Flamingo used trunks to pin Jushin Liger. 4) Steve Austin over Barry Windham. 5) Ron Simmons & Ricky Stramboat beat Arn Anderson & Cactus Jack. 6) Sting splashed Super Invader. 7) Rick Rude beat Nikita Koloff with a foreign object when Nikita tried a belly to back suplex. 8) Steiner Brothers over Terry Gordy & Steve Williams when Doc was caught coming off the top rope and DQ'd. ATT: 2,500

Charlotte Coliseum (WWF) Charlotte, NC July 11, 1992
 Correspondent: Danny Parris

1) Jim Powers beat Brooklyn Brawler in 12:15. Dud 2) Tatanka over Rick Martel in 13:39. * 3) Nasty Boys downed Owen Hart & Koko Ware in 9:51. * 4) Randy Savage over Ric Flair via DQ in 15:54. Flair was cheered and worked like a face while Savage played heel. Flair used an object to seemingly win the title but when the ref raised his arm, the object fell out and Ric was DQ'd. * 5) Natural Disasters over Ted DiBiase & IRS via count out in 9:33. * 6) Davey Boy Smith pinned Repo Man in 5:02. * 7) Undertaker over Berzerker in 8:17. ** ATT: 2,000

Mid-Hudson Civic Center (WWF) Poughkeepsie, NY July 2, 1992
 Correspondent: Andy King

1) Jim Powers pinned Kato in 13:42. Yawn! 2) Nailz choked out Virgil (sub for Crush) in 4:17. 3) Bob Backlund pinned Skinner in 13:32. Bob was in great shape and worked with a massive sunburn. 4) Shawn Michaels used the ropes for leverage in beating Tito Santana in 17:03. 5) Rick Martel beat Tatanka by count out in 13:15. 6) Ultimate Warrior & Legion of Doom over Nasty Boys & Papa Shango in 8:19 when Warrior pinned Knobbs after he took a top rope clothesline from Hawk.

Meadowlands Arena (WWF) E. Rutherford, NJ July 11, 1992
 Correspondent: Elyse Zois

1) El Matador beat Skinner with the Paso del Muerte. 2) The Mountie beat the count into the ring to beat Sgt. Slaughter. 3) Bret Hart over Shawn Michaels in a bout with too many rest holds. 4) Legion of Doom over Beverly Brothers when Animal pinned Beau. 5) Virgil (sub for Crush) pinned Kato. 6) Big

Boss Man beat Nailz via DQ when Nailz used a nightstick. 7) Ultimate Warrior pinned Papa Shango after a big splash.

LETTERS TO "AR"

Female Bumps

Madusa should take bumps like male managers do. Madusa isn't Elizabeth, Missy, Alexandra, or a Memphis stripper. She's a tough, talented, aggressive professional wrestler who has proven herself on the Japanese circuit. An occasional bump from Nikita or another babyface should not shock or offend anyone. Considering Madusa's heel role, is it wrong for her to bump 1/10 as much as she would as a wrestler? Saying women should never take bumps from men is like saying women should never be police officers, firefighters, or fighter pilots. The fact is that some men in wrestling aren't in condition to ever bump and some wrestling women are in condition to bump some of the time. Well meaning statements like, "A man should never hit a woman in wrestling under any circumstances" are as misguided, patronizing, and sexist as they are inflexible. Gordon Scozarri would probably second my views.

Steve Meyerson
Brooklyn, NY

Harry Speaks

With Pat Patterson gone, Titan is lacking a head booker. If thy want to continue in the vein of the voodoo wars between Warrior and Shango then maybe they should go after a relative of the late great movie director William Castle. As Ernie Santilli, Vic Stanley, and other fans of both wrestling and bad "B" movies are aware of, William Castle was Hollywoods Greatest Showman. Titans' voodoo angle reminds me of some of Castles' movie angles and how his kind of stuff fits right in with Titan. Some of his movie gimmicks were:

- The Punishment Poll allowing audiences to choose the fate of the movie villain which sounds like today's 900 polls.

- The \$1,000 insurance policy for anyone who died of fright at the movies could be changed to an insurance policy for anyone who died from excitement from watching all the in the ring action. (I'd like to underwrite the chances of that happening at a Titan house show.)

- The electronic Tingler movie device with which Castle buzzed a shock through movie seats at strategic times. Could be used now to send a buzz or thud through seats every time Nailz hits Boss Man with the nightstick.

- Flying skeletons that flew over the movie audience could be repeated with Papa Shango sending skulls on wires over the arena audience.'

- Castle once had a "Towards Corner" for those who dared ask for their money back after a horror show. I am fairly sure that Titan would never pick up on anything close to that angle as wrestling fans asking for money back would fill up more than a corner at a Titan show.

Titan is already doing William Castle type gimmicks so why not go all the way and hire a relative of his.

Harry White
St. Louis, MO

Buddy Rogers

Buddy Rogers may have been the original "dirtiest player in the game" as far as ribs and pissing people off up until 1963. Since that time, even those that retained heat on him (Shires, Pepper Gomez) when they were finally re-aquainted with him were charmed back into being close pals. Rogers was perhaps the greatest gentleman wrestling will ever have, and we've lost a national treasure. Many at Moolah's LIWA convention/matches June 26th were sobbing all evening long and couldn't work their matches. (Moolah, Barbie Dahl) Rogers had passed away minutes before the opening bell after perhaps the freakiest accident ever. I am ashamed at my own health care profession when a man goes into a hospital for a broken elbow & sciatica and ends up brain dead weeks later. His grieving widow and son, Debbie and David Rogers had an immediate autopsy done on 6/27 to investigate error because he was given an analgesic he had an known allergy to and also because he was released initially too soon for someone with a history of smoking and 4 heart bypasses. Most importantly, the wonderful match that Ron Lemieux and Alex Marvez had planned for Buddy never came to fruition. We are all outraged at the loss of Beloved Budro and calls to the family have come from Thesz in Japan, Sam Muchnick, Kiniski, Don Leo Jonathon, Baba and Inoki, and our community. Buddy held many keys to Vince McMahon's downfall but without Buddy, the WWWF would never have been. Many of us are calling for Vince to acknowledge his death on air. I don't have to worry about Jim Ross and Bill Watts having the class to do so.

Mike Lano
San Francisco, CA

I just got off the phone with Mike Lano who informed me of Buddy Rogers death. The news was a shock. I met Buddy at the Cauliflower dinner in March

and he looked in great shape. Except on film I had never seen Rogers wrestle, but in the early sixties when I first started following wrestling in the magazines he was champ and I always felt his title reign was the greatest of all. Every month I'd read how he managed to slip by challengers like: Rocca, Carpentier, Valentine, Brazil, Sammartino, Ellis, Gomez, Thomas, Dixon, O'Connor, and Kowalski. Buddy is remembered for that one loss to Sammartino but he use to beat Bruno every night of the week. I can only think of one name in wrestling that was as big and that was the man who beat him and took his NWA title. (Lou Thesz) Buddy wouldn't shake his hand that night but he did last March at the Cauliflower Dinner. I'll always be grateful that I was allowed to be there. Everyone in wrestling ~~has~~ felt this loss.

Steve Yohe
Alhambra, CA

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intended there.....For you Mons fans, they are coming out with Mons Venus baseball cards and who is doing the shooting for them ~~is~~ none other than wrestling photog Bill Otten. Yeah, he'll be shooting alright.....Some Notes From the Bash PPV: Since when has Ricky Morton become an expert in wrestling that he analyzes matches on the preview?...Best bout I thought was Liger & Pillman vs. Nikita & Steamboat. They had us when Pillman hit Nikita with a dropkick from the top rope. Maybe we just wanted to see Koloff do a job so bad...Did Bill Watts give away the finish of the title match when he said "We'd like to see our champion Sting face the winner of the NWA tourney". He was trying to throw a swerve right there...Sorry but Nikita & Steamboat vs. Doc and Gordy almost took worse match away from the Birds and Hase-Hashimoto. I was falling asleep. And for the third time, why can't Nikita do a job?...Did you notice how Ross and Jesse made sure not to bury Sting after his title loss to Vader? Alright guys, don't worry, he'll still be over. ..I don't agree with taking the belt off Sting mainly because he's the only guy who got heat with the fans that night. There is no one else more over than he is. It's great to have a heel champ but they won't let Vader have it long as Simmons is projected to take it on Oct. 25 at Havoc. And I'm sorry, they can push Ron to the hilt but he still won't be over...The only thing I liked about the tag final was the finish. Great bump by Dustin...Why in every bout does Watts make Gordy and Williams portray to be "wrestlers" the first ten to fifteen minutes. Okay with Doc but when did Gordy become such a great former amateur wrestler? And to mat wrestle with guys like Nikita? Let's get these guys brawling more please. They're boring me to death..... Smoky Mountain Wrestling now has a merchandise list with T-shirts, programs, photos, and video tapes of all their shows. Lots of good stuff. Send for one at P.O. Box 1279, Morristown, TN 37816-1279.....Ken Verret of 505 Gouaux Ave, Houma, LA 70364 is looking for N.G.W.A. tapes. Anyone that can help him out, drop him a line.....Georgiann Makropoulos is putting out a special issue of her Wrestling Chatterbox in August. It will be a tribute to Buddy Rogers. The cost is \$3.50 for non Chatterbox subscribers. It will run at least 30 pages with two pages of color photos. Sounds great, check it out at 23-44 30th dr., Astoria, NY 11102-3252.....And finally, here is a question that Tony Aragona and myself thought about while watching Al Hardiman collect his trophy for winning the IWF battle royal. How do the U.S. guys bring their trpohys they receive in Japan home? Seriously. They are about 4-5 feet tall. Can you imagine Stan Hansen bringing one home and checking it into the cargo section. When he's waiting for his luggage in the claims area, here comes his trophy with the wrestling figure on the top chopped off. Would you want to be in the claims office? I guess I'm getting tired.We'll see tyou in two weeks with Jeff Siegel, Mike Terry, Evan Ginzburg, Scott "Mr. Kleen" Hudson, a live WWF report from Orlando, and much more. Until then.

See ya,

Ron